



**LISKEARD
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**



The
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1967



P. J. FOX, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.



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RURAL DISTRICT OF LISKEARD
THE ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of Liskeard.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The estimated population of the Health Area on 30th June, 1967, showed a small increase—51,640—as compared with 51,500 on the same date a year earlier. There were small increases in St. Germans R.D., Liskeard R.D., Saltash M.B. and Looe U.D. The figure for Liskeard M.B. remained static at 4,700 whilst Torpoint U.D. showed a fall of 250.

There was a fall in the live birth rate from 18.7 per 1,000 in 1966 to 17.5 per 1,000 in 1967. In my report last year I referred to the unusually high figure for live births in Saltash M.B. In 1967 this fell to a more normal level bringing down the corrected birth rate from 23.9 to 17.9, this latter figure being close to the rate for the Health Area, and those of the other five County Districts in South East Cornwall. The rate for still births was well below the national figure as was also the infant mortality rate which at 9.3 per 1,000 live births was almost half the corresponding rate for England and Wales. There was some increase in illegitimate births which totalled 51 and represent 6.7% of all live births. No deaths associated with maternity and childbirth were registered.

The corrected death rate at 11.5 per 1,000 of population was identical with last year's figure and was slightly above the rate of 11.2 for England and Wales. The principal causes of death remained in much the same order as in previous years. Heart disease was responsible for 38% of all deaths, and cancer and strokes each caused 19% of all deaths. When cancer deaths are broken down the most prevalent single type of cancer causing death was that affecting the lungs, and windpipe. This type of cancer caused 25 deaths, being followed by cancer of the breast which caused 19 deaths. I was interested to note that diabetes was responsible for 11 deaths during the year. This suggests some increase in the prevalence and severity of this disease. There is a strong possibility that excessive consumption of foods containing carbohydrates, particularly refined carbohydrates, combined with the resultant obesity, can determine the earlier onset of diabetes in a more severe form than would otherwise be the case. Here then is a further reason for urging moderation in the consumption of sweet and starchy articles of food since carbohydrates are additionally indicted as likely causes of disease of the heart and blood vessels, and are certainly responsible for most of the deplorable dental decay seen especially amongst children. More than ever perhaps in history is it true to say that we in our misuse of affluence are helping to dig our graves with our teeth.

The incidence of notifiable disease was moderately heavy during the year when 1,115 cases were notified. No less than 1,036 of this total was in respect of cases of measles which was prevalent in Liskeard R.D., Saltash M.B., Liskeard M.B. and Looe U.D. Of the more serious types of notifiable disease two cases of meningococcal infection occurred. Both

patients were children in the pre-school age group. Whilst on the subject of notifiable disease it is worth mentioning the strong probability that during 1968 a start will be made on immunising children who have not yet had measles against that disease. A large number of children who get measles are not seriously ill and make a quick and complete recovery, but a small number suffer more severe attacks and develop complications which may leave long standing or permanent disabilities. It is largely to deal with this aspect of the disease that it has been felt necessary to provide, and bring into general use, a vaccine to give immunity against measles.

With the growth in the proportion of old persons in the community there is a corresponding increase in the difficulty of providing adequate and readily available facilities for the welfare and care of those who can no longer care for themselves. Under the constant and ever-increasing demands placed by old people and their relatives on welfare and hospital services, long waiting lists are the rule, and efforts to provide additional places in welfare homes and hospitals are almost invariably badly in arrears of the need of these services. The problem is aggravated by the fact that the extreme south-west as represented by Devon and Cornwall is a very favoured retirement area to which an increasing number of old people come to live. With such people, the younger relatives continuing to live and work in other parts of the country some 200-300 miles distant, can do little to help the old folks when illness and infirmity makes them incapable of managing on their own. I would not wish to conclude this section without a grateful reference to the good work being done by District Councils, and particularly by urban authorities, in providing bungalows and flats specially designed to meet the needs of old persons, with warden and other services. These have, and are continuing to, make a valuable contribution to the care of the elderly.

I have in the past made reference to the probable detrimental effect of noise on health. As experienced by most of us who do work in the noisy ambience of the workshop or factory there is little serious threat to the physical faculty of hearing, but the constant bombardment of our waking minds by noise which is well-nigh impossible to avoid must cause mental fatigue, and in some measure contribute to the neuroses and psychosomatic illnesses that are so widespread in modern society. The principal culprit continues to be the internal combustion engine in the almost infinite diversity of uses to which it is put. Certainly some, and probably the greater part, of the torrent of noise which daily engulfs us could be substantially reduced even if it does involve on the part of the owners and operators of noisy machinery some additional expense to deal with their particular problem. As I write some regulations aimed at controlling the level of noise from motor vehicles are soon to be brought into operation, but even before the appointed day for their introduction grave doubts are being expressed about the practical and legal difficulties of enforcing them. The truth is that whilst a minority, conscious of the constant and ever-increasing volume of obnoxious, hurtful noise that assaults our senses, raise a protesting voice, the majority accept it as inevitable and increasingly take refuge behind their barriers of sedatives, tranquillisers, hypnotics and psychedelic drugs to shelter from the tensions and stresses of twentieth century living.

Last year I wrote of the inadequacy of arrangements for the identification of brucella abortus infection amongst cows in herds, the owners of which have been licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to bottle milk on the farm and offer it for sale for human consumption. Such untreated or "raw" milk can carry brucella infection from the

infected cow to a human being who consumes the milk. Though rarely having a fatal outcome the disease in the human being can cause a chronic debilitating illness for which there is so far no certain or effective treatment, and it is therefore important to identify sources of this infection and prevent the spread from them of the disease by untreated milk. The problem is somewhat greater in a holiday area, such as Cornwall is, since many holiday visitors stay on farms where they almost invariably consume untreated milk, and I do know of one case in which a resident of London almost certainly contracted his infection in this way. The tracking down of infection involving as it does the checking of bulked milk samples, followed by sampling of milk from individual cows, is time consuming, and called for an increase in the establishment of sampling officers if any real progress was to be made. Because of the difficult financial situation, proposals by the County Medical Officer to increase staff could not be approved and in consequence little or no sampling was undertaken in this Health Area during 1967. There is some prospect that during 1968 some members of the staff of the Weights and Measures Department of the County Council will be able to assist the Health Department in this work, and I am hopeful that by the end of 1968 we may have more information on sources of brucella infection. Until such time as this disease amongst cattle is substantially reduced or eradicated, it seems to me prudent to avoid the use of unpasteurised milk whenever possible.

The collection and disposal of refuse from both private households and business establishments continues to pose problems. The main part of these problems is clearly related to an increase in the bulk and variety of refuse, an apparently inevitable but unwelcome by-product of higher living standards. Adding to this main part of the problem are the growing difficulty in finding suitable disposal sites even in large and sparsely populated areas, and the more critical outlook of the public on methods of disposal. I have for some years taken the view that the logical outcome of this set of circumstances is bound to be a sizeable increase in the cost of providing this service. We are now seeing the beginning of this in the shape of larger, specially equipped collection vehicles, higher costs incurred in purchasing parcels of land on which refuse tips may be sited, and heavy-duty tracked vehicles required to move, consolidate and cover the mass of refuse brought daily to a large tip. Before long it is likely that further expenditure will be needed on heavy static mechanical equipment to disintegrate and pulverise refuse, whilst other plant to reduce old motor vehicle bodies and other heavy items to manageable dimensions may well be needed.

In the field of housing, demand varies noticeably with the location of the houses available for letting. In the western part of the Area which is largely rural in character pressures are considerably less than in the east and in urban and seaside communities. The biggest and most insistent demand is seen in Saltash Borough and Torpoint Urban District, and results to a great extent from their close proximity to Plymouth. In the section of private housing development an encouraging feature has been the reconditioning and improvement of many old cottages in rural parts. Not only does this provide attractive accommodation in pleasant surroundings, but it should also postpone or halt the decay of rural hamlets, and may in some measure slow down the depopulation of the countryside.

The rate of provision of sewerage and sewage disposal schemes has tended to slow down as consideration is given to the need for them in smaller rural communities. In many cases the scattered disposition of dwellings in hamlets calls for long, uneconomic runs of sewers and the capital cost of the disposal plant tends to be high in relation to the number

of houses served. On the other hand if such communities are denied those schemes it tends to seriously limit or stop any development of new housing in the locality. One is struck by the way in which the provision of an amenity such as sewerage disposal is quickly followed by housing development on an altogether unexpected scale. Indeed such development has already caused in some localities overloading of schemes which were installed not so many years ago, and has necessitated further expenditure or enlargement of the disposal works to cope with the increased volume of sewage. At present, with the completion of the Liskeard Borough scheme, the only large scale discharge of crude, untreated sewage are at Torpoint, Looe, and to a lesser extent at Saltash. Although in each instance the discharge is to tidal waters, the situation is not satisfactory particularly as the waters fouled are increasingly used for boating, sailing, and other aquatic recreation.

It gives me pleasure to turn from the critical frame of mind in which some parts of this general preface have been written, and to be able to set down yet again my sincere thanks to both elected representatives and officers of the six District Councils I serve for the co-operation, understanding and tolerance they have shown to me during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Your obedient servant,

P. J. FOX,

Medical Officer of Health.

RURAL DISTRICT OF LISKEARD

Public Health Committee

Councillor J. W. J. Pearse, Chairman.
Councillor A. R. Perry, Vice-Chairman.

Housing Committee

Councillor H. G. Preston, Chairman.
Councillor J. D. Barnecut, Vice-Chairman.

Health Officers of the Authority

Dr. P. J. Fox, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health,
Health Area Office, West Street, Liskeard. Telephone Liskeard 3373.

Mr. G. Rogers, F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.,
Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

Mr. G. M. Lawry, A.I.A.S., A.I.H.M., M.A.P.H.I., Mun.B.I.,
Deputy Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

Mr. G. O. Cowling,
Assistant Surveyor.

Council Offices, Luxstowe House, Liskeard. Telephone Liskeard 2379.

Area of Rural District	104,803 acres
Population	13,430
Number of Inhabited Houses at 1.4.67	5,341
Rateable Value at 31.12.67	£296,086
Product of Penny Rate at 31.3.67	£1,117

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1967

		Male	Female	Total
Live Births		105	96	201
	Liskeard R.D.	Health Area No. 7	England & Wales	
Birth rate per 1,000 of population	17.8	17.5	17.2	
Still Births		—	1	1
	Liskeard R.D.	Health Area No. 7	England & Wales	
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births	5.0	3.9	14.7	
Deaths		Male 75	Female 85	Total 160
	Liskeard R.D.	Health Area No. 7	England & Wales	
Death rate per 1,000 of population	10.0	11.5	11.2	
Deaths of infants under one year of age		Male 3	Female —	Total 3
	Liskeard R.D.	Health Area No. 7	England & Wales	
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	14.9	9.3	18.3	

Principal Causes of Death at All Ages

Heart Disease	59
Cancer (all sites)	32
Stroke	30
Circulatory disease	9
Respiratory disease	4
Diabetes	4

Amongst the 201 live births there were 17 illegitimate births which represents 8.5% of the total. The most common defined form of cancer causing death was that affecting the windpipe and lung.

Of those who died during 1967 some 41% had reached or exceeded the age of 75 years at the time of death.

Notifiable Disease (other than tuberculosis).

There was an increase in the incidence of this group of disease as compared with 1966. Of the total of 355 cases notified no less than 348 were cases of measles. Of the more serious forms of notifiable disease there was one case of encephalitis in a 9-year-old boy, and a case of meningococcal infection in an 18-month-old child on holiday in this district from West Cornwall.

The following are details of cases and case rates :—

Disease	Cases	Rate per 1,000 of population	
		Liskeard R.D.	Health Area No. 7
Measles	348	25.64	20.06
Pneumonia	5	0.37	0.72
Meningococcal infection	1	0.07	0.04
Encephalitis	1	0.07	0.02

Tuberculosis.

For the first time in the 19 years I have served the Council no new cases of this disease were notified during the year, and no deaths were attributed to this disease.

At the end of 1967 there were 15 known cases of respiratory tuberculosis, and 6 known cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis residing in the Rural District.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

No action under Section 47 of this Act was called for during the year.

Water Supply.

Adequate supplies of wholesome water were available in most parts of the Rural District from the mains of the East Cornwall Water Board.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

I observed last year that the rising cost per unit of accommodation, which is a feature of schemes for small hamlets, is likely to slow down or even halt progress on such schemes. The present unfavourable financial climate in the country can only strengthen this tendency, and the smaller rural communities could well have to face considerable delays and frustrations in the implementation of schemes. Apart from having to continue to bear with lack of this amenity and the local nuisances arising therefrom, any housing development in such localities will inevitably be halted or severely curtailed.

Food.

In spite of some difficulties experienced in achieving and maintaining a good standard of hygiene and food handling practice in catering establishments which operate only during the holiday season, and therefore do not have permanent staff, the general standard of food hygiene has been reasonably good. In general owners and managers of shops, catering establishments and food vehicles have been co-operative in providing the amenities required for food hygiene.

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

Factories Act, 1961.

No difficulties in the operation of this Act were experienced during 1967.

Report of Chief Public Health Inspector.

This report, which in this instance has been prepared by Mr. G. M. Lawry, follows. Throughout the year 1967, and in fact up to 31st March, 1968, when he retired, Mr. G. Rogers was the Chief Public Health Inspector. I was indeed sorry to see Mr. Rogers go, having benefitted greatly since 1948 from his experience, sage counsel, intimate knowledge of the Rural District, its people and problems, and his tact and courtesy in our dealings with ratepayers. I gladly take this opportunity to wish him well, and many years of happy retirement. I am happy that the Council decided to appoint as successor to Mr. Rogers his deputy, Mr. G. M. Lawry who, having served in this Rural District since 1954 brings to the appointment detailed knowledge of the district and securely grounded experience of the people and their problems.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR 1967

Water Supply.

It was reported in the 1966 Annual Report that the village of Doddycross was provided with a pipe water supply during that year. I am now able to report that every dwelling in the village has now been provided with a piped water supply. This means that every village in this large and scattered Rural District is supplied with an adequate and wholesome supply of water from the East Cornwall Water Board mains. The source of water supplied is the River Fowey from which the water is abstracted at a point below Trekeive Steps from where it is conveyed to the St. Cleer Treatment Works and from there a supply is taken by various trunk mains throughout the Rural District.

(1) Quality.

It is gratifying to know that the water supplied from the mains is of a very high standard of quality and no complaints have been received in this direction during the year under review.

Samples of the treated water are taken for chemical analysis and a bacteriological examination is made every two weeks. At approximately six monthly intervals a check is made for the presence of flouride, but none has been detected. The East Cornwall Water Board also take daily samples of raw and settled water to ascertain its pH value and the necessary treatment is carried out to maintain a pH of 7.0.

Several samples of water were taken during the year from private houses and these have been submitted for bacteriological examination. The procedure whereby the Ministry of Agriculture gives a grant to supply water to farms and farm dwellings necessitates sampling of these supplies by the Local Authority as the latter has to certify that the water concerned is suitable for domestic use. Invariably advice has to be given on the carrying out of works at the source of supply to prevent the ingress of pollution.

Particulars of those samples are given herewith :—

Examination of Water Samples.

Braddock.		
Colliton Farm.	Reservoir.	(Heavily Contaminated).
Colliton Farm.	Shallow Well.	(Satisfactory).
Duloe.		
Copplethorne.	Bore-hole.	(Satisfactory).
Lanreath.		
Porfee Farm.	Tap.	(Satisfactory).
Lansallos.		
Windsor Farm.	Tap.	(Satisfactory).
Linkinhorne.		
Netherton, Rilla Mill.	Land Spring (3 samples).	(Contaminated).
Liskeard.		
Venton Veor.	Bore-hole.	(Satisfactory)
Menheniot.		
Trevartha Farm, Pengover.	Shallow Well.	(Contaminated).
Pengover Farm.	Spring.	(Satisfactory).
Morval.		
Tredinnick Cott, Widegates.	Tap.	(Satisfactory).
Dowland Farm.	From Reservoir.	(Contaminated).
	From Tap.	(Contaminated).
Plashford Mill.	Tap.	(Contaminated).
St. Cleer.		
Higher Rosecraddoc.	Shallow Well.	(Satisfactory).
St. Martin.		
Coombe Cottage.	Land Spring.	(Satisfactory).
St. Neot.		
West Kellow.	Bore-hole.	(Satisfactory).
Kellow Cottage, Twowatersfoot.	Tap—Spring supplies.	(Satisfactory).

(2) Quantity.

Throughout the Rural District in spite of the considerable housing development which has taken place in recent years, there is still no shortage of water.

During the year under review work commenced on the construction of a new dam in the area of Trekeive Steps and when this is completed in the latter part of 1968, there will then be adequate water to supply the District for many years to come and to cope with the anticipated additional use in agriculture, industry and new housing development.

The Board took no steps during 1967 to carry out the fluoridation of water supplies in this Rural District.

As previously stated, the Board ensures that a neutral water leaves its Treatment Works and therefore there is no danger of corrosion of metal piping. The majority of private wells, springs, etc., within this Rural District are acid in nature and in this respect I encourage the use of plastic piping and polythene water storage tanks. No lead piping is used in the Rural District to convey drinking water.

Number of dwellings and population supplied from public mains :—

Parish	Population of Parish	Population supplied to houses	No. of houses	Population supplied by standpipes	No. of houses
Boconnoc	160	90	30	Nil	—
Broad oak	185	100	33	Nil	—
Duloe	540	405	133	Nil	—
Lanreath	350	236	75	Nil	—
Lansallos	1425	1388	456	Nil	—
Lanteglos	1083	993	328	Nil	—
Linkinhorne	1075	706	229	Nil	—
Liskeard	1027	652	207	Nil	—
Menheniot	1080	811	270	Nil	—
Morval	470	105	30	Nil	—
Pelynt	486	307	96	Nil	—
South Hill	370	156	52	Nil	—
St. Cleer	1505	1156	382	Nil	—
St. Ive	1190	831	277	Nil	—
St. Keyne	180	82	27	Nil	—
St. Martin	438	233	74	Nil	—
St. Neot	800	309	103	20	7
St. Pinnock	340	100	33	Nil	—
St. Veep	330	225	73	Nil	—
St. Winnow	383	80	27	Nil	—
Warleggan	153	103	33	Nil	—

Sewerage.

During 1967, the Sewerage Schemes serving the villages of Merrymeet and Pengover and St. Neot and Mount were completed and put into operation. The use of a Comminutor form of pump at Pengover where the sewerage is macerated and pumped through a small bore plastic pipe has proved very successful and I am sure that this appliance will prove very valuable when small village sewerage schemes, necessitating pumping, are carried out.

An Inquiry was held regarding the proposal for a Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme at the village of Lerryn in 1967, but the Minister raised certain doubts regarding the use of a Contact Stabilisation type of plant which it was proposed to use. In view of this the Council decided to instruct its Engineers to obtain an alternative site and to prepare a scheme for a traditional type of Sewage Disposal Works. It is to be hoped that Ministerial approval will be given during 1968 so that this scheme can be put in hand. Development is being held up in the village due to the absence of Sewerage and the present system whereby a section of public sewer and the drainage from many private houses, discharge into the river, is not satisfactory and is quite objectionable when the tide exposes the mud banks.

The negotiations with the County Council regarding the Sewerage of Highway village continued during the year and it is to be hoped that a Public Inquiry will be held to deal with a scheme for this village as well as the village of Trevelmond during 1968.

It is the Council's policy to proceed with Sewerage Schemes for the remainder of the villages which do not have this amenity and in addition to those villages mentioned above, I would stress the need particularly for a Sewerage Scheme for the village of Golberdon. Many of the houses in Golberdon have very little land adjoining them and the disposal of the contents of bucket closets is a very difficult problem. It becomes even worse at times of heavy rainfall when the level of the sub-soil water in the ground rises very near the surface and it is impractical then to dig pits to dispose of waste matter.

I would also mention here that the absence of Sewerage Schemes prevents improvement of dwellings proceeding at the pace one would like, particularly where it is not practical to provide an individual septic tank. This is particularly the case in the village of Golberdon mentioned in the last paragraph.

During the year under review schemes were being prepared by the Consulting Engineers for the enlargement of Dobwalls and Pelynt Sewage Disposal Works where the increase in housing development has been above all expectations. It is necessary for this to be done in order that the requirements of the Cornwall River Authority can be satisfied and I hope that the work will be in hand in 1968. At the St. Cleer Sewage Disposal Works, trouble has been experienced due to surface water entering the system and the engineers have recommended that a Comminutor type of overflow with settling tanks be incorporated in the system. It was suggested by the Cornwall River Authority that the Council acquire additional land to carry out tertiary treatment of the sewage effluent at the works at East Taphouse and Duloe and steps were taken to acquire the necessary land for this to be effected.

There is existing in the village of Doublebois a Sewerage system where the sewage discharges into settling tanks with a form of soakaway. Considerable nuisance occurs particularly at times of heavy rainfall as the sewers take a large quantity of road water. The Council decided to construct a new Sewage Works and to take steps in conjunction with the County Council for a surface water sewer to be laid so that all road water can be removed from the Soil Sewerage System. At the village of Menheniot trouble has been experienced due to overloading of the Works by road water and the Council decided to make a contribution to the County Council for the laying of a surface water sewer in order to overcome this difficulty.

The Consulting Engineers were instructed to prepare a Scheme for the renewal of a long length of Sea Outfall Sewer at the village of Polruan, the existing sewer is at the moment overloaded as well as being defective.

The Council's policy of carrying out Sewerage Schemes to its villages has enabled a considerable improvement to be made in the standard of Public Health and Housing and has encouraged growth in the villages which at one time was completely unexpected. The effect of this has been to improve the villages and give a new life to many of them, and it has encouraged people to come into the area and purchase existing dwellings and modernise and recondition them.

Public Conveniences.

During the year under review a Public Convenience was constructed at the village of Lansallos and this was open in time for use by visitors.

Steps were taken to find a suitable site for a Public Convenience in the village of Minions and it is to be hoped that a suitable building will be erected there during the end of 1968.

With the exception of Polperro and Polruan, where the Conveniences are cleaned by the Council workmen, all the other buildings are cleaned by part-time attendants. Very few complaints were received during the year regarding the conditions of these buildings but a problem does arise at Polperro where a considerable influx of visitors from coaches and private cars results in the flushing arrangements being unable to cope with the demands made upon them. There is nothing that can be done about this, but arrangements are being made for them to be visited twice every day.

Efforts have been made previously to provide paper towels at the Public Conveniences at Polperro but due to vandalism this arrangement had to be stopped. During the year under review, however, a special slot machine containing paper towels and soap leaves was purchased for installation at the Crumplehorn Public Conveniences as an experiment. If this is successful the Council will, no doubt, give consideration to the provision of this facility in other buildings where there is a need.

Public Health Nuisances.

During 1967 complaints were again received of nuisance occurring when liquid farm manure was being spread over land in the proximity of dwellings. This material has a most objectionable and penetrating smell, and whilst accepting that the farming industry has a right to carry out its activities, it cannot ignore the effect this particular practice has on people who live in villages. Arrangements have been made for farmers to use a deodorant and to incorporate this in the liquid before spraying, but I have found that although this mitigates the nuisance to some extent it does not, in my opinion, reduce it to an extent which can be regarded as being acceptable. This is a matter which I feel should be given active consideration by National bodies concerned with farming practices.

Complaints were received regarding possible danger due to certain mine-shafts in the District not being adequately fenced. A survey was made of the areas concerned and steps were taken to improve fences, etc.

Refuse Collection.

Of all the services administered by the Council, that of Refuse Collection and Disposal has grown fantastically over recent years. The villages and major hamlets in the District receive a weekly collection whilst in Polperro and Polruan the service is twice weekly and in the summer season the service to cafes is increased beyond this. During the year under review the Council has spent considerable time in dealing with this service and deciding what steps should be taken to maintain and improve it. It was reported in 1966 that the two major refuse disposal dumps at St. Cleer and Burydown were rapidly filling and it was decided to purchase an area of land situated centrally within the Rural District at Cannon Bridge in the parish of St. Pinnock. Negotiations were in hand throughout the year with the owner regarding the purchasing of the land in question and it is hoped that this will be finalised in 1968 and the new tip put in operation. It was decided, in principle, to purchase a new 35 cubic yard rear loader refuse lorry and to appoint two additional men as refuse loaders. It was also decided to purchase an excavator for full-time use on the proposed new refuse tip and to appoint a full-time excavator driver. A member of the existing staff has been appointed as Foreman and among his duties the supervision of refuse collection and disposal will be an important part.

The Council gave consideration to the report of the Working Party on Refuse Collection and it was decided that, in 1968, the Council should purchase refuse disposal bins and supply them, at an annual rental of 5s. to all premises in the Rural District. This I am sure is a very wise step as the present type of receptacles in which refuse is put out for collection are, in many instances, unsuitable and insanitary.

The Council also gave consideration to its responsibilities and duties under the Civic Amenities Act and made arrangements for dumps to be available for persons who have bulky material to dispose of.

One of the problems of refuse disposal in a large, sparsely populated Rural District is the collection of refuse from isolated dwellings and farms. This is now being demanded by more people every year and is a service which the Council has to provide. In many instances I arrange for the occupier of the premises concerned to collect the refuse in suitable sacks and when a quantity of these have been filled, to contact me and a refuse lorry is then sent. With the use of so much tinned foods it is no longer possible for these people to dispose of their refuse as was the custom in pre-war days.

Litter.

In 1967 the Council continued to collect the paper sacks used for the deposit of litter in lay-bys. These litter receptacles are provided by the County Highways Department and a payment is made to this Council for its collection service. This I feel is the right practice for the Council to have adopted but one has to bear in mind that it all adds to the work of the Refuse Collection service. In addition the Council has itself purchased many litter baskets and the litter from these is collected by the refuse lorries.

Considerable nuisance has been caused from litter baskets placed near the Quay at Polperro due to seagulls pulling out the litter in search for scraps of food. At one time the litter baskets were replaced by dustbins, but this was not satisfactory as many people would not bother to lift off the

cover. During the year under review I designed a metal container with a pillar-box type of inlet and in this two large metal litter baskets were placed. A hinged front was incorporated in the container to enable the baskets to be removed for emptying. This arrangement has proved most satisfactory and the size of the container enables a large quantity of litter to be contained and the nuisance in this part of Polperro has been removed. I hope to persuade the Council to have a similar type of container constructed and fitted in the village of Lansallos during the coming year.

The Council, as previously reported, gave consideration to the Civic Amenities Act and is very alive to the problem caused by the dumping of abandoned cars and car bodies as well as other bulky refuse in the District. Arrangements which have previously been made for the removal of abandoned cars has worked very satisfactorily, but I feel that the problem is one that will increase. Many cars which were made in the immediate post-war years have now reached the stage when they will have to be scrapped and unfortunately many of the isolated beauty spots in the Rural District are very tempting places for the owner to get rid of this worthless commodity.

Rodent Control.

This service, which has been operated by the Council for many years, is one which does not receive a great deal of publicity. It is, however, to me a very important Public Health service and one which pays great dividends for the expenditure incurred. Treatment of private houses in the Rural District is carried out by the Council free of cost and the service is available for the disinfestation of business premises including farms, subject to the occupier repaying the Council the cost. It must always be remembered that rats are carriers of certain diseases and in addition cause considerable damage to buildings, crops and foodstuffs.

Regular inspections and disinfestations of the Council's refuse dumps were made and test baits of the Council's sewers were carried out. None of the latter were found to be infested, probably due to the small size of the sewers. Visits were also made to the Sewage Disposal Works which are subject, from time to time, to minor infestations and these are dealt with quickly so as to keep the matter under control, particularly as the Works are situated, in many cases, in farmland. I have set out below details of the work carried out to private premises during the year :—

		Non-	
		Agricultural	Agricultural
(a)	Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	...	...
		568	31
(b)	Number infested :— (i) Rats	...	...
	(ii) Mice	...	...
		540	31
		28	—
	Total number of properties inspected for rats and for mice for reasons other than notification	...	...
		40	10
	Number infested by rats	...	...
		15	10

Re-conditioning and Modernisation of Existing Houses.

Applications for Standard and Discretionary Improvement Grants continued to be received during 1967 and the numbers dealt with were greater than in 1966. It has been, and still is, the Council's policy to encourage people to apply for both Discretionary and Standard Grants.

The Council has always used its power to provide additional amounts of Standard Grant where it is necessary to build on for a bathroom, to construct septic tank drainage or to provide piped water supply into the dwelling for the first time.

The following figures show the details of Grants received and paid during 1967 :—

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS.

Conversions.

Applications received	...	...	...	...	5
Owner-Occupied	...	...	...	...	3
Other	...	...	...	...	2
Amount of Grant approved	...	...	...	...	£1,824
Grants paid — No. of dwellings	...	...	...	...	2
Amount paid	...	...	...	...	£800

Improvements.

Applications received	...	...	...	...	27
Owner-Occupied	...	...	...	...	8
Other	...	...	...	...	19
Amount of Grant approved	...	...	...	...	£10,547
Grants paid — No. of dwellings	...	...	...	...	10
Amount paid	...	...	...	...	£3,401

STANDARD GRANTS.

Applications received	...	...	...	...	46
Applications approved — Owner-Occupier — Normal Limit	...	...	...	...	14
— Higher Limit	...	...	...	...	10
— Other — Normal Limit	...	...	...	...	15
— Higher Limit	...	...	...	...	7
— Housing Associations	...	...	...	...	Nil
Grants paid — No. of dwellings	...	...	...	...	46
Amount paid	...	...	...	...	£6,296
Amenities provided—Fixed baths or showers	...	...	...	...	44
—Wash basins	...	...	...	...	43
—Hot Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	44
—Water Closets	...	...	...	...	40
—Food Storage Facilities	...	...	...	...	29
Grants paid above but including higher limit—No.	...	...	...	...	20
Additional Work—Bathrooms added	...	...	...	...	4
—Piped Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	1
—Septic Tanks	...	...	...	...	18

Slum Clearance.

During 1967, houses which were unfit for human habitation were dealt with when they became vacant and the families rehoused. The Council's slum clearance programme has been in the main completed although a minor number of houses each year fall into the category of being unfit and incapable of repair at a reasonable expense. In many instances, due to the demand of people wanting to purchase these dwellings and come into the area to live, works which I consider to be uneconomical are carried out and the dwellings made fit without formal action having to be taken.

I have set out below details of the action taken during the year under review :—

Unfit houses made fit	...	...	68
Unfit houses closed	...	...	5
Persons displaced	...	...	7
Families displaced	...	...	3
Number of houses demolished	...	...	1

Camping and Caravan Sites.

During 1967 a new Caravan Site Licence was issued in respect of a Site for 20 caravans in the parish of Pelynt. By the end of the year the conditions of site licence which include tree planting, provision of water stand pipes, roads and footpaths, were completed.

As reported in 1966, the first Site Licence in the Rural District was granted for a permanent residential caravan site, again in the parish of Pelynt. This site, which has been provided with all the amenities and has a first-class lay-out, is operated very satisfactorily and the caravans have been occupied mostly by retired people. In addition to communal toilets, etc., many of the vans have been fitted with their own water closets and drainage systems.

Efforts were made during the year to finalise the lay-outs of certain sites for which licences had been granted and some results were achieved in this direction. The sites generally have all been provided with adequate roads and sanitary facilities, but it is the question of lay-out which has proved difficult to achieve. In some instances caravans have had to be removed and chalets erected so that space was made available for siting the vans in accordance with the conditions of the licence.

In the case of one site a swimming pool was in operation during the year and this was provided with a filtration plant and drip feed chlorination equipment. The water has been tested periodically and the chlorine content was found to be satisfactory. On another site steps were in hand for the construction of a swimming pool and this should be completed before the 1968 season. It is becoming a general practice for this facility to be provided on caravan sites and, of course, it will provide additional work for the department in that frequent checks have to be made on the water to ensure adequate treatment and residual chlorine content.

The Council has not insisted on the provision of shower bath facilities on caravan sites, but public demand for them has resulted in these being provided on all the larger sites.

The weather during the summer of 1967 was not particularly dry and therefore there was not the demand for tenting on unauthorised sites which occurs during hot summers. The control over tenting sites is still completely inadequate in that land can be used for 42 days without a site licence and without the provision of proper amenities. The only action that a local authority can take is when a Public Health nuisance occurs and, in practice, this is always difficult to prove.

There is in the Rural District a colony of gipsies resident for a period after which they move on to other parts. Arrangements were made by the Council for an area of land to be levelled off at Foredown, Pensilva, so that the gipsies can site their vans in a confined area without having to spread them over the moorland. The caravans have their own chemical closets but they have to carry water supplies from some source to the site. It is obvious to me that at some future date some authority will have to provide a small site with the necessary sanitary facilities for the gipsies in this district.

Food.

(1) Meat Inspection.

Slaughterhouses. No applications were received for the licensing of slaughterhouses in the district and most of the meat consumed continued to be obtained from the Abattoir of the Fat Stock Marketing Corporation which is situated within the Borough of Liskeard. The latter authority employ a full-time authorised Meat Inspector and therefore a comprehensive

meat inspection service is carried out in the Abattoir. When visits are made to the butchers' shops during the course of inspection under the Food Hygiene Regulations, an opportunity is always taken to inspect meat exposed for sale and stored in refrigerators.

(2) Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960.

The administration of the Food Hygiene Regulations is somewhat difficult in an area which caters for a large seasonal population, as many of the Cafes and Restaurants are closed during the winter months and it is therefore impossible to programme a system of inspection over a period of twelve months as can be done in the case of permanently opened food premises. The other difficulty with seasonal premises is that there is a regular change of staff each year as it is not the practice to retain any during the winter months and it is therefore an uphill fight to educate these people in standards of food hygiene. Fortunately I am able to report that no outbreaks of food poisoning were reported during the year and if this can be taken as a measure of success in the administration of the Food Hygiene Regulations, then one can be satisfied with the results of the work undertaken during the year.

It is now becoming common practice in the village shops for open-top frozen food cabinets to be installed. I am afraid many of the proprietors of these shops do not fully understand the correct operation of these cabinets and such matters as stock rotation, the need to prevent overloading and to carry out regular de-frosting is not always adequately appreciated. Many of the butchers' shops are now selling cooked meat, and during the year efforts have been made to ensure that the cooked meat has been kept separate from raw meat and that separate knives are used for cutting. It has been found that proprietors of these premises do not realise the dangers that can occur through contamination from raw meat to cooked meat.

During the year under review major reconditioning was carried out to one bakehouse in the district and the existing coal ranges were replaced by modern electric appliances. This will enable the premises to be maintained in much cleaner conditions than previously. In the case of one grocer's shop, a large store extension was built and the premises reconditioned. This was necessary as previously the premises were so congested that it was impossible to keep them in a clean and tidy condition. A new self-service store was erected in one village and the opportunity was taken to ensure that the premises were so designed, and the type of equipment used were such that it would be possible to maintain it in a clean and hygienic condition.

The number and types of food premises in the Rural District are as follows :—

	Number	No. fitted to comply with Reg. 16	No. at Premises where Reg. 19 applies	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19
Grocers' Shops	66	66	30	30
Confectionery ...	4	4	—	—
Licensed Premises	29	29	29	29
Cafes & Restaurants	33	33	33	33
Butchers ...	17	17	17	17
Hotels & Guest Houses	26	26	26	26
Bakehouses ...	2	2	2	2
Greengrocers ...	1	1	—	—
Clubs ...	5	5	5	1
Food Factory ...	1	1	1	1
Bulk Food Store	1	1	—	—

(3) Food Hygiene.

Market Stalls and Delivery Vehicle Regulations, 1966.

These regulations which came into effect in January, 1967 have enabled an improved standard of hygiene to be obtained in food vehicles operating throughout the Rural District. There are 20 food vans operating from food premises in the district but there are numerous vans which trade from premises in neighbouring authorities but which sell food throughout the Rural District. It is difficult to keep adequate control of these vehicles and it is regretted that registration of all food vans is not required. It is difficult to understand why this requirement is always omitted from Food Hygiene Regulations whereas it operates very successfully in other legislation.

I am able to report that all the food vans which are known to me now have adequate hand washing facilities, are all equipped with a First Aid kit, have the names of the proprietors displayed and are generally in a satisfactory condition.

(4) Examination of Food.

Inspection of food is carried out during routine visits to food shops and on request from retailers. During the year under review the following foodstuffs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption :—

- 48 Tins of vegetables
- 60 Tins of fruit
- 17 Tins of soup
- 8 Tins of meat
- Tin of 14lbs. of mutton
- Tins 5½lbs. of gammon.

All condemned food is disposed of at the Council's refuse dump and treated with dye under my supervision.

(5) Milk and Dairies.

There are five registered dairies in the Rural District but no bottling of milk takes place in any of these.

One of the dairies continued in use as a Cream Factory from which cream was sent to retailers in various parts of Devon and Cornwall. The cream was pasteurised at the dairy and two types of packing were undertaken, one by hand filling and the other by the use of a machine. During the year 17 samples were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination and for the detection of Brucellosis. In no case was Brucellosis detected but four of the samples were not wholly satisfactory bacteriologically. The water supply at the premises was from a private well and steps were being taken to see whether it would be possible to bring treated water from the East Cornwall Water Board's mains to these premises.

No sampling of milk for the presence of Brucellosis was carried out by this Council during the year as the Cornwall County Council are operating this service throughout the County.

(6) Ice Cream.

During 1967, 19 samples of Ice Cream were taken and these were graded as follows :—

Grade 1	14
Grade 2	2
Grade 3	2
Grade 4	1

These results are reasonably satisfactory particularly having regard to the fact that most of the Ice Cream is now sold loose from conservators. This practice, which is demanded by the general public, places a greater risk of contamination from inadequately sterilised servers and from dust, etc., entering the conservator while the top is kept open. I have now managed to ensure that suitable sterilising agents are used in the liquid in which servers are kept and this has played its part in raising the standard of hygiene.

(7) Egg Pasteurisation Plants.

There are no Egg Pasteurisation Plants in the Rural District.

(8) Poultry Inspection.

There are no known poultry processing premises within the district, but an opportunity is taken to inspect poultry during visits to food shops.

Council Housing.

During the year under review, 36 new Council dwellings were completed. These were either one- or two-bedroom accommodation. In addition the Council decided to purchase 13 older properties in the district with the idea of modernising and reconditioning them with the aid of Improvement Grants. Improvement schemes were drawn up in respect of these and the work should be completed during 1968. These dwellings will then provide accommodation for families and will be an example to private owners of Improvement Schemes which can be carried out reasonably economically.

Building Control.

The department is responsible for the administration of the 1965 Building Regulations and the relevant provisions of the Public Health Act. During the year 382 plans were received for examination. In 1967, 61 private dwellings were completed and at the end of the year 107 were in course of erection. Six flats were provided by conversion of existing buildings and one separate dwelling was provided by conversion.

Licensed Premises.

Routine visits of inspection were made to the 29 Licensed Premises in the district. In one case a new sanitary block comprising Ladies' and Gent's toilets, complete with wash hand-basins with hot and cold water, was constructed during the year. In one other premises plans were to be prepared for a new toilet block in 1968.

Factories Act, 1961.

The majority of factories on the Council's register comprise in the main small premises such as builders and vehicle repair workshops and in the majority of these power is used and in these cases the District Council is only concerned with the provision and maintenance of suitable sanitary accommodation. In one bakehouse complete cleansing of walls and ceilings was carried out.

Plans were received for the construction of two new factory buildings and steps were taken to ensure that adequate sanitary accommodation, properly sited, would be available.

During the year under review 102 building sites were in use and inspections of the sanitary accommodation available for the use of workmen were made during the course of building inspections.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

Report on the administration of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 in the Liskeard Rural District during the year ended 31st December, 1967.

During the year under review two additional premises were registered under the above Act, but this was offset by the fact that fifteen premises were withdrawn from the register. In one case this was due to the employees being made self-employed and, in the remainder, small establishments ceased to employ the one person which previously had necessitated registration.

One problem in the administration of the Act in this area is that a considerable number of the premises are open only in the summer months and thus makes for some difficulty in enforcement. On the other hand, many of the previous businesses are also inspected under the Food Hygiene Regulations and a joint inspection under these regulations and this Act is possible.

It is gratifying to report that heating has been improved in the shops and in practically all cases a temperature of 60.8 degrees F. has been maintained after the first hour. Abstracts of the Acts and First Aid kits are now generally available.

In spite of publicity on the need to report accidents, no notification has been received during the year under review. One has to assume from this that no accidents occurred.

The following items were attended to during 1967 :—

Premises	Item
3	New water closets.
3	New wash-hand basins.
4	Hot water supply.
1	Seats for staff.
1	Decoration.

THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

TABLE "A"

Registrations and General Inspections.

TOTALS

Class of Premises	Number of Premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	1	8	8
Retail Shops	1	41	41
Wholesale shops, warehouses	Nil	Nil	Nil
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	Nil	29	29
Fuel storage depots	Nil	Nil	Nil

TABLE "B"

Number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises.

113

TABLE "C"

Analysis of persons employed in Registered Premises by Workplace

Class of Workplace	No. of Persons Employed
Offices	14
Retail Shops	85
Wholesale departments, warehouses	—
Catering establishments open to the public	96
Canteens	—
Fuel storage depots	—
	<hr/>
Total	195
Total Males	59
Total Females	136

TABLE "D"

Exemptions

Nil

TABLE "E"

Prosecutions

Nil

TABLE "F"

Inspectors

Number of Inspectors appointed under Section 52(1) or (5) of the Act	3
Number of other staff employed for most of their time on work in connection with the Act	Nil

APPENDIX 1.

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH—ALL AGES—1967

Type of Disease	St. Germans R.D.	Liskeard R.D.	Saltash M.B.	Torpoint U.D.	Liskeard M.B.	Looe U.D.	Health Area No. 7
Heart Disease	72	59	37	19	48	23	258
Cancer (all sites)	35	32	26	9	18	12	132
Stroke	35	30	13	9	31	13	131
Respirat'y disease	20	4	6	3	5	4	42
Circulat'ry disease	6	9	5	2	1	—	23
Accidents	3	3	1	3	1	3	14
Diabetes	2	4	3	1	1	—	11

APPENDIX 2.

TYPES OF HEART DISEASE AND CANCER CAUSING DEATH—1967

Type of Disease	St. Germans R.D.	Liskeard R.D.	Saltash M.B.	Torpoint U.D.	Liskeard M.B.	Looe U.D.	Health Area No. 7
Coronary disease, angina	36	24	20	9	12	13	114
Hypertension with heart disease	6	3	3	2	4	2	20
Other heart disease	30	32	14	8	32	8	124
Cancer of the lung and bronchus	5	8	5	1	3	3	25
Cancer of breast	8	4	4	1	2	—	19
Cancer of stomach	3	1	—	2	2	2	10
Cancer of uterus	2	2	—	—	2	—	6
Other cancers	17	17	17	5	9	7	72

APPENDIX 3.

DEATH BY AGE GROUPS—1967

District	0-4 years	5-14 years	15-44 years	45-64 years	65-74 years	75 years and over	All ages
St. Germans R.D.	1	—	3	38	61	93	196
Liskeard R.D.	3	2	2	35	52	66	160
Saltash M.B.	2	1	3	19	26	48	99
Torpoint U.D.	1	—	6	8	11	25	51
Liskeard M.B.	—	—	3	14	23	71	111
Looe U.D.	1	—	3	11	20	26	61
Health Area No. 7	8	3	20	125	193	329	678

APPENDIX 4.

**TUBERCULOSIS
NEW CASES IN HEALTH AREA No. 7—1967**

Age Group	Males	Females	Persons
0— 4 years	—	—	—

5—14 years	1	—	1
15—24 years	—	1	1
25—44 years	2	1	3
45—64 years	4	1	5
65 years and over	1	4	5
	—	—	—
	8	7	15
	—	—	—
	Males	Females	Persons
New case rate per 1,000 of population	0.15	0.14	0.29

CASE RATES AND MORTALITY RATES IN COUNTY DISTRICTS IN HEALTH AREA No. 7—1967

District	New cases	All known cases	Deaths
St. Germans R.D.	0.41	1.71	0.07
Liskeard R.D.	—	1.55	—
Saltash M.B.	0.24	2.73	—
Torpoint U.D.	0.16	3.03	—
Liskeard M.B.	0.85	5.96	—
Looe U.D.	0.49	4.44	—
Health Area No. 7	0.29	2.59	0.02
Cornwall County	0.18	3.24	0.03

APPENDIX 5.

CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS DEATHS BY AGE GROUPS—1967

Age Group	Males	Females	Persons
25—34 years	1	—	1
35—44 years	—	—	—
45—54 years	2	—	2
55—64 years	9	—	9
65—74 years	9	4	13
75 years and over	—	—	—
	—	—	—
	21	4	25

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 OF POPULATION—1967

	Males	Females	Persons
Health Area No. 7	0.407	0.077	0.484
Cornwall County	0.409	0.079	0.488
England and Wales	0.487	0.097	0.584

APPENDIX 6.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

This table is enclosed by a request of the Minister of Labour to indicate to Medical Officers of Health the prescribed particulars which are required by Section 153(1) of the Factories Act, 1961, to be furnished in their Annual Reports with respect to matters under parts I and VIII of that Act which are administered by the District Council. This table, which is not intended to supersede the fuller statement which is desirable in the text of the Report, should be attached as an annex to the Report.

**Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
in respect of the Year 1967 for the Rural District of Liskeard
in the County of Cornwall.**

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961.

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities†	29	31	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	55	58	2	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority** (excluding out-workers' premises).	102	130	Nil	Nil
Total	188	219	2	Nil

2—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions, they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prose- cutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	4	4	—	—	—

†To prevent any differences between the lists kept respectively by the Local Authorities and H.M. Inspectors of Factories of the numbers of factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the Factories Act, 1961 are enforced by Local Authorities, it is requested that Local Authorities should compare their lists of factories with the lists kept by H.M. Inspectors of Factories.

**i.e. Electrical Stations (Section 123(1)), Institutions (Section 124), sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Section 127), Slaughterhouses (Section 175(1) (d) and (e)), and Railway Running Sheds (Section 175 (2) and (10)).

PART VIII OF THE ACT.						
Outwork (Sections 133 and 134)						
Nature of work 1	Section 133		Section 134			
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c) 2	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council 3	No. of prose- cutions for failure to supply lists 4	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises 5	Notices served 6	Prose- cutions 7
Wearing apparel— Making, etc., cleaning and washing	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

